

# **LINN COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE**

Marijuana Diversion Program



2021 Results

The Linn County Attorney's Office launched a Marijuana Diversion Program in January 2021. The program was designed for first-time offenders found in possession of a user-quantity amount of marijuana. Conviction for a marijuana offense may have serious and lasting consequences for first-time offenders' ability to obtain housing and employment, access higher education, as well as other negative short and long-term financial consequences. The abuse of marijuana also presents potential dangers. The marijuana diversion program was created to address and balance these concerns.

**"Ensuring that we identify any individuals who are struggling with addiction and getting them help is important to us."**

~ Linn County Attorney Nick Maybanks

114 first-time offenders entered the program and 78 of them completed the program, with 28 of them (36 percent) completing the program successfully. Successful participants were required to complete a treatment and community service component as well as other diversion program requirements. Those who completed the diversion program successfully had their case dismissed and the Linn County Attorney's Office recommend expungement of the arrest and charge from the participant's record.

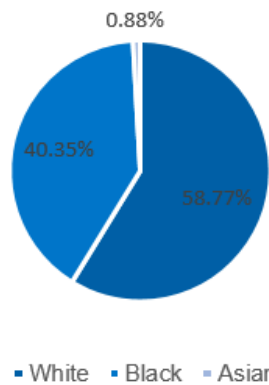
The two primary reasons that participants did not complete the program were failure to get a substance abuse evaluation and follow through with recommendations and failure to complete the required 10 hours of community service.

"We don't want repeat offenders. We want to divert people from the criminal justice system."

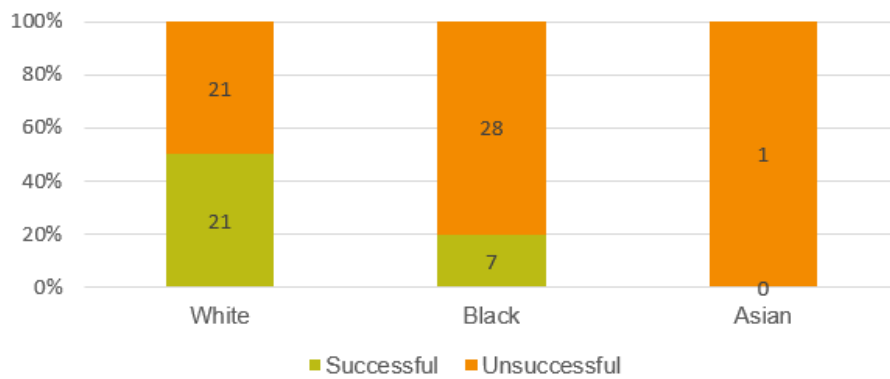
~ Linn County Attorney Nick Maybanks

The complete legal memo by the Linn County Attorney's Office, which outlines the rationale and goals of the Marijuana Diversion Program, eligibility guidelines, and requirements for successful completion, is available on the Linn County website at [www.LinnCountyIowa.gov](http://www.LinnCountyIowa.gov).

## Linn County Marijuana Diversion Program Enrollment 2021



## Marijuana Diversion Program Outcomes 2021



## Marijuana Diversion Program Unsuccessful Outcomes 2021

